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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1233 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY QUINN, BURGOS AND ROZZI, APRIL 20, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, APRIL 20, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of October 5, 1978 (P.L.1109, No.261), entitled  
2 "An act requiring the licensing of practitioners of  
3 osteopathic medicine and surgery; regulating their practice;  
4 providing for certain funds and penalties for violations and  
5 repeals," further providing for genetic counselor.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 10.3(c) of the act of October 5, 1978  
9 (P.L.1109, No.261), known as the Osteopathic Medical Practice  
10 Act, is amended to read:

11 Section 10.3. Genetic counselor.

12 \* \* \*

13 (c) Scope of practice.--

14 (1) A genetic counselor may provide genetic counseling  
15 to clients, which includes:

16 (i) Obtain and evaluate individual and family  
17 medical histories to determine genetic risk for genetic  
18 or medical conditions and diseases in a patient and other  
19 family members.

20 (ii) Discuss the features, natural history, means of

1 diagnosis, genetic and environmental factors and  
2 management of risk for the genetic or medical conditions  
3 and diseases.

4 (iii) Identify, order and coordinate genetic  
5 laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies as  
6 appropriate for the genetic assessment.

7 (iv) Integrate the genetic laboratory test results  
8 and other diagnostic studies with personal and family  
9 medical histories to assess and communicate risk factors  
10 for genetic or medical conditions and diseases.

11 (v) Explain the clinical implications of genetic  
12 laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies and their  
13 results.

14 (vi) Evaluate the client's or family's responses to  
15 the condition or risk of the recurrence and provide  
16 client-centered counseling.

17 (vii) Identify and utilize community resources that  
18 provide medical, educational, financial and psychosocial  
19 support and advocacy.

20 (viii) Provide written documentation of medical,  
21 genetic and counseling information for families and  
22 health care professionals.

23 (2) When in the course of providing genetic counseling  
24 services to a client, if a genetic counselor finds any  
25 indication of a disease or condition that requires diagnosis  
26 and treatment outside the scope of practice defined in this  
27 section, the genetic counselor shall refer the client to a  
28 licensed physician or appropriate health care practitioner.

29 (3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to  
30 authorize a genetic counselor to diagnose[, test] or treat

1 any genetic disease or condition or other disease or  
2 condition.

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.